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# General Assembly
Forty-ninth session
Disarmament Commission

*Official Records*

**195**th Meeting
Monday, 22 May 1995, 10 a.m.
New York

*Chairman*: Mr. Erdenechuluun . . . . . (Mongolia)

*The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.*

**Statement by the Chairman**

**The Chairman:** The Disarmament Commission concluded the first phase of its work for the current session on the first day with a brief general exchange of views. Thereafter, the Commission embarked on the second phase of its work and all three Working Groups have begun their deliberations on the respective agenda items.

During the course of intensive deliberations, various views were expressed and proposals made by delegations on the subjects under consideration. A large number of delegations have submitted their working papers to the Working Groups on different agenda items, which have been circulated. It is expected that more papers will be submitted during this week's deliberations in the three Working Groups. It would be advisable for delegations to submit their papers to the Secretariat as soon as possible for timely processing.

**Reports by Chairmen of Working Groups**

**The Chairman**: This meeting will be devoted to the progress reports by the Chairmen of the Working Groups on the work on their respective agenda items.

I call first on the Chairman of Working Group I.

**Mr. Valencia Rodríguez** (Ecuador), Chairman of Working Group I (*interpretation from Spanish*): Working Group I agreed to consider document A/CN.10/1994/WG.I/CRP.6, of 6 May 1994, entitled "Working paper of the Chairman", as a basic document, together with the documents issuing from the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

During the course of last week, there were six formal meetings of the Group and two informal private consultation meetings. We undertook a detailed and extended review of document A/CN.10/1994/WG.I/CRP.6's four parts, namely, "General overview", "Mechanisms for nuclear disarmament", "The role of the United Nations system in the process of nuclear disarmament" and "Principles and recommendations".

Delegations made a number of comments and oral and written proposals on these. Some delegations kindly accepted the Chairman's request to carry out the necessary private and informal consultations with all interested delegations in order to coordinate these proposals and observations and arrive at a text that would have majority support, with the end in view of achieving consensus.

After a week of deliberations, it became apparent that there are still serious differences between delegations on non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. I should point out that, on Friday, 19 May, the consultation meeting on part IV, which was led with particular dedication and courtesy by the representative of Canada, arrived in principle at a general text. Even though some bracketed language remains, this is very encouraging to us in our work.

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I believe that we will be able to conclude our work successfully during this session, as we all hope to do, only if delegations cooperate in earnest, with positive and broad political will and with an eye to the future, keeping in mind that consensus texts are indeed achievable if the political and social realities that now determine international conduct are recognized; if the results of the NPT Review and Extension Conference are taken into account; and if an analytical, objective and realistic document is drafted.

**The Chairman:** I call on the representative of India.

**Mr. Chandra** (India): I listened very attentively to the progress report by the Chairman of Working Group I, who has put a great amount of hard work into the deliberations. However, there are two points on which I wish to comment.

One point is that I believe he mentioned that Working Group I had accepted the documents from the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as working documents. This, at least as far as our delegation is concerned, is not the case. In fact, our delegation very clearly made the point that we did not consider those documents as basic to this Commission. We made it clear that we would go only by document A/CN.10/1994/WG.I/CRP.6. Even though that is a very imperfect document for a variety of reasons, we felt that we could work on it, but not on the NPT documents. That is the point that I wanted formally to register in this plenary meeting.

The second point that I wanted to make is that I share the view of the Chairman of Working Group I that work has been proceeding slowly, and that there are still many major differences. In fact, there are hardly any agreed paragraphs, even in part IV of the document.

**The Chairman:** As there are no further comments on the report of the Chairman of Working Group I, I call on the Chairman of Working Group II to give his report.

**Mr. Hoffmann** (Germany), Chairman of Working Group II: Working Group II is progressing more or less on schedule. We have as our basic document a Chairman's working paper, annexed to last year's report of the Disarmament Commission, that was prepared by my predecessor, Ambassador Luis Fernando Jaramillo of Colombia.

Firstly, the working paper was accepted by the Group as a working document for our deliberations here; it was reproduced as document A/CN.10/1995/WG.II/CRP.1.

Secondly, we decided on the scope of our deliberations, including not only illicit but also licit arms transfers; however, it was clear to everyone that our priority really lies with illicit arms trafficking.

Thirdly, we decided on a structure for our deliberations that followed the lines of the working document, and we streamlined the headlines somewhat.

We then started the first reading, which I had hoped we would finish last week. We were not able to, so we will continue from this morning on to discuss the rest of the document. In the time remaining, we will try to have a second reading of at least parts of the document, with a view to arriving at a common language that will be unbracketed. The result of these discussions should form the basis for final deliberations on the document next year.

**The Chairman:** I now call on the Chairman of Working Group III.

**Mr. Gambari** (Nigeria), Chairman of Working Group III: It is my pleasure to report that Working Group III began consideration of agenda item 6, entitled "Review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade", on Thursday, 18 May 1995. As members are aware, Working Group III is expected to submit to the Disarmament Commission, for its consideration and approval, a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the Declaration as well as any suggestions that may be put forward to ensure appropriate progress in that respect — in a sense, to look backwards as well as forwards.

The Working Group held two substantive meetings last week, at which it conducted very useful and constructive deliberations on the item before it. In addition, the Working Group began its substantive work on a working non-paper, which I prepared in consultation with the Friends of the Chair. Two other working papers were submitted by the representatives of India and China. I should like to note that the Working Group decided to use the Chairman's non-paper as a basis for its consideration of the item before it. The Working Group will continue to examine that non-paper and the other two working papers as well as any other working paper or papers that may be submitted for its consideration.

May I take this opportunity to remind all representatives participating in Working Group III that the secretariat expects to receive written suggestions or amendments to the Chairman's working non-paper by 11 a.m. today, as we had previously agreed.

The Working Group will endeavour to derive maximum benefit from the exceptionally limited time at its disposal in order to meet the expectations of the Disarmament Commission.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of the Chair, as well as all delegations participating in the deliberations of Working Group III, for their spirit of cooperation, which I hope will continue to prevail in the days ahead so that we can complete, successfully and on schedule, the task before us.

**The Chairman:** I should like to thank the Chairmen and all the delegations for their hard work in the three Working Groups. I am certain that we will have to devote our full attention and exert all our efforts in order — possibly — to come to any agreed conclusions in these Groups, and I very much appreciate the active participation of all the delegations in the Working Groups.

In accordance with the programme of work contained in document A/CN.10/1995/CRP.1 and the weekly timetable, all Working Groups must finalize their reports by Friday, 26 May at 6 p.m. so that the secretariat can process them for consideration and adoption by the Commission at its next plenary meeting, on Tuesday, 30 May.

*The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.*